

ones of a plurality of funnels. Additionally, for example, independent claim 1 requires a plurality of product package templates, each of the templates comprising a plurality of cavities corresponding to a plurality of product package cavities and wherein each of the templates is located under an associated funnel and a plurality of product package templates are mounted on a common X-Y mechanical drive.

In initially rejecting the claims, the Examiner has asserted that the Knudsen reference discloses an automated pharmaceutical packing machine in which the products are dispensed from array of sources into each cavity of a plurality of package cavities. As recognized by the Examiner, the Knudsen reference does not specifically disclose the pharmaceutical products being dispensed into package templates. Additionally, Applicants note that there is no teaching or suggestion regarding the mounting of the product package templates on an X-Y mechanical drive. This deficiency of the prior art was not recognized by the Examiner.

In further support of the Examiner's rejection, the Examiner has asserted that the Bouthiette reference discloses a packaging machine with package template cavities corresponding to cavities of a product package member. However, Applicants note that the Bouthiette reference is merely directed to a manual kit that is used to sort pills, tablets or capsules. The pill-sorting device disclosed in this reference is made of two sliding panels with hollow bottom recesses that can used to insert the pills into the containers of the container-defining sheet. See, for example, the Abstract of this disclosure.

It is significant to note, however, that this is merely a manual mechanism which an individual uses to manually sort out individual pills or tablets. In addition to that important distinction, the Bouthiette reference similarly as with the Knudsen reference fails to provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding the use of an X-Y mechanical drive for manipulating product package members as claimed.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, because this combination of reference fails provide the requisite teaching or suggestion regarding the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully requests the that the Examiner now withdraw these rejections.

Additionally, the Examiner has used the Takemasa, U.S. Patent No. 5,765,606 in conjunction with the Bouthiette reference 6,023,916. However, the Takemasa reference in combination with Bouthiette similarly fails to provide the requisite teaching or suggestion in order to render the claimed invention obvious or otherwise invalid. Takemasa merely is directed to a medication filling apparatus that includes a dispensing and counting device for dispensing the medications from tablet cases and counting the dispense medications. In this reference, a turntable and guide is utilized for collecting the medications dispensed from the tablet cases and a holder is provided for filling a vial with the medications. As with the Knudsen reference, there is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding the X-Y manipulation and accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination of reference similarly fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. The Bouthiette reference cited in this rejection is the same manual process described above and thus Applicants submit that the cited combination does not render the claimed invention invalid.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests the that the Examiner now withdraw all rejections and allow all claims in the application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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